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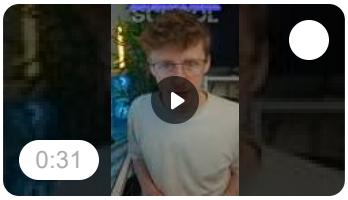
AI Overview

Keyboard switches are split into three main mechanical groups: **linear** (smooth, quiet press), **tactile** (physical bump for feedback), and **clicky** (bump plus a loud sound). Manufacturers often color-code these as red, brown, and blue, though options also include optical, silent, and low-profile variants. YouTube · Switch and C… +1

Watch this quick demonstration to see how linear, tactile, and clicky switches look and sound side-by-side:



Linear vs tactile vs clicky - what's the difference? Day 9

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The Three Main Mechanical Switch Types

- **Linear (Red):** Smooth travel from top to bottom with no bump or click; popular for fast gaming.
- **Tactile (Brown):** Noticeable physical bump mid-press to let you know the key registered; great for general typing.
- **Clicky (Blue):** Features a tactile bump accompanied by a sharp, loud clicking noise similar to an old typewriter.

- **Silent Switches:** Uses internal rubber dampening pads to muffle bottom-out noise for office environments.
- **Low-Profile Switches:** Shorter travel distance designed for slim keyboards or laptop-like feels.
- **Optical Switches:** Uses a beam of light instead of physical metal contact to register keystrokes faster for gaming. YouTube · Switch and C… +1

You can browse a wide selection of replacement options and pre-lubed parts through vendors like Best Buy Canada or specialized retailers like Keychron CA if you plan to build or modify a board.

If you want to choose a switch, tell me:

- Will you use the keyboard mostly for **gaming or typing**?
- Do you prefer a **quiet or loud** sound?

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Mechanical Keyboard Switch Types

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Is clicky or linear better?

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Keyboard Switches: An Introduction - Corsair

Jun 9, 2025 — When it comes to mechanical keyboards, there are three main types: **linear, tactile, and clicky**. CORSAIR OPX Switches. The Corsair OPX switch is ... Read more

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Switches… There's so much choice 😳 So which ...

There are three **types** of **switches**, depending on their behavior upon activation. Linear: Tactile: With these. Clicky: These **switches** also have a ...

Complete beginner overwhelmed by the choices, how to ... 19 posts Feb 11, 2026
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How to Choose the Perfect Keyboard Switch For YOU.

YouTube · Hipyo Tech
Aug 23, 2025

Learn how to pick your favorite **keyboard switch**: linear, tactile, or clicky. Consider weight, sound, and material. Try **switch** testers before buying.

11:44

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YouTube · Dygma Lab
Apr 9, 2026

7:35

Mechanical vs Magnetic vs Optical Switches – Which Should ...

YouTube · LumeKeebs

Apr 10, 2026

Optical **switches** offer max speed & durability for gaming. For typing, mechanical **switches** provide variety & better sound at a lower cost.

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Guide to Keyboard Switch Types

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